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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

15 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NIE 85-62: THE SITUATION IN CUBA

1. The main text of the draft of NIE 85-62 is attached. The paper will be presented at the 21 March meeting of the USIB.

2. We believe that the paper represents the consensus in the USIB agencies, with the exception of paragraphs 16, 52, and 120, on which the Air Force Representative has reserved his position.

3. The general problem reflected in the Air Force reservations is a difference on the question of the degree of control and discipline which the Soviet leaders exercise over Fidel Castro and the extent to which Castro's actions in seeking overt identification with Communism and the Soviet Bloc have conformed with the preferred Soviet strategy

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in Latin America. In paragraph 16 we have indicated that some degree of friction between Castro and the Communists is probable, whereas the Air Force Representative believes that their identity of interest is so great as to render this insignificant. In paragraph 52 we have interpreted the evidence on Bloc arms deliveries to Cuba to indicate that the Soviets have not been interested in giving Cuba a capability for offensive military actions outside Cuba involving organized armed forces. We believe this is important because it reflects Soviet strategy with respect to the area. The Air Force Representative believes that the Soviets intend to use Cuba to communize Latin America by all means, including armed intervention. In paragraph 119 we propose that a conflict between Castro and the Cuban Communist Party is conceivable, though highly unlikely. We believe it has not been presented in such a way as to arouse false hopes but that the possibility exists and should be noted. The Air Force Representative does not agree.

4. The Department of State is in complete accord with the paper. Military representatives, except for the Air

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Representative on the specific matters noted, are in agreement with the present draft. We anticipate changes only on minor points of detail at the clean-up session on 19 March.

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